

Message Text

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OECD PARIS PASS PAUL BOEKER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, CIEC, EEC

SUBJECT: EC POSITION ON AGENDA FOR CIEC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

1. DURING A LUNCHEON CONSULTATION ON TROPICAL PRODUCTS ON FEBRUARY

1. PHAN VAN PHI, EC COMMISSION DIRECTOR FOR RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND TRAN VAN THINH, COMMISSION OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR GSP, EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT THE EC WAS IN PARIS ADVOCATING THAT TRADE BE THE FIRST AGENDA ITEM IN THE CIEC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION. PHAN VAN PHI'S POSITION AT THE OECD TRADE COMMITTEE MEETING HAD BEEN THAT TRADE SHOULD BE GIVEN AS LITTLE IMPORTANCE AS POSSIBLE SINCE PROGRESS IS BEING MADE IN THE MTN, THERE WAS LITTLE IF ANYTHING THAT COULD BE DONE ADDITIONALLY ON ISSUES SUCH AS STANDSTILL AND IMPROVEMENT IN GSP.

2. PHAN VAN PHI AND TRAN EXPLAINED THAT THEIR DELEGATION TO THE CIEC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION HAD REQUESTED INSTRUCTIONS TO ALLOW TRADE TO BE THE FIRST ITEM SINCE THE UNITED STATES WAS WILLING TO PLACE IT THERE. THEY WERE SURPRISED TO HEAR THAT IT WAS THE EC WHICH WAS IN FRONT IN ADVOCATING THIS POSITION.

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3. ON SUBSTANCE, COMMISSION OFFICIALS HAD MADE NO DECISION

AS TO ANY INITIATIVE IN THE TRADE FIELD. THEY WERE CONCERNED WITH THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE LDC PROPOSAL FOR CONCRETE RESULTS IN THE TRADE AREA AT THE SECOND MEETING OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE WOULD BE ACCEPTED. THE COMMISSION WOULD HAVE AS DIFFICULT A TIME AS THE US IN COMING UP WITH CONCRETE RESULTS FOR REASONS EXPRESSED ABOVE.

4. BOTH PHAN VAN PHI AND TRAN EXPRESSED REGRET THAT THE PRESS OF OTHER BUSINESS DID NOT ALLOW TRADE PEOPLE TO BE FULLY CONVERSANT WITH CIEC DEVELOPMENTS. HOWEVER, TRAN WAS PLANNING TO BE IN PARIS NEXT WEEK FOR EXPECTED SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS ON TRADE.MORRIS

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